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99 AUG 18 P1:55

August 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: 98N-1230
96P-0418
97P-0197

To the FDA:

I am writing to urge you to ban forced molting. Such a practice has been scientifically proven to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems. Forced molting is the primary contributor to infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs.

The process of forced molting in which hens are deprived of food and water for up to 14 days is highly stressful to the birds who are already living in unnaturally overcrowded conditions. Many illnesses and deaths to humans are linked to contaminated eggs which result from this deliberate and cruel procedure.

The FDA such act without delay to prohibit the act of forced molting which inevitably causes injury to human health. Please use your jurisdiction to ban this practice which not only predisposes hens and their eggs to salmonella poisoning, but also puts humans at risk to egg borne diseases.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this vital matter.

Sincerely,

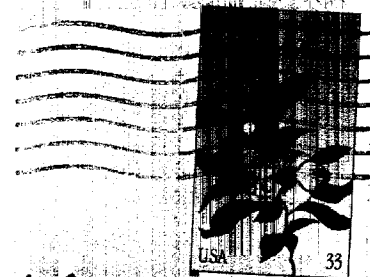
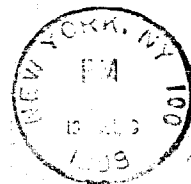
Melanie Spear

96P-0418

C285

M. Spear
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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number

98N-1230/C285-

See File Number:

97P-0197/C286

96P-0418/C285-